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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

REPORT

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1. [redacted] most Chinese Communist regulations and restrictions seemed oppressive to the Chinese people. The most offensive practice of the Communists was the necessity for everyone to participate in political learning. It was impossible to remain silent during classes; and as soon as one spoke, one was likely to be in trouble with the authorities. To speak at all was to court criticism.

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3. When filling out biographical histories for the Communist authorities, most people thought that details were not important or, unwittingly, left out factual information. If the authorities discovered any events that had not been recorded in the biographical histories, they assumed that the individual concerned was attempting to conceal the information, and he could be sure of harsh treatment as a result.

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4. Difficulties had arisen with the Chinese Communist program because when the Communists had a plan, they did not allow any alterations in the plan; at the same time they told the people who were to implement the plan to use their discretion in carrying it out. In constructing a building at P'uchen (N 32-08, E 118-44), no particular appropriation had been made by the authorities for the building although it was included in the general construction plan for the area. The local cadre in command told the engineer in charge to go ahead with the construction but to economize wherever possible. The workers worked even during the rain when umbrellas were held over them to protect them. This situation was broadcast by the Nanking radio. When the central authorities heard about it, they blamed the engineer and the Communist cadre concerned for being capitalistic because in a capitalistic society, according to the Communists, it is necessary to follow a budget strictly; whereas in a Communist society the budget could be adjusted, and consideration could be given to the workers.
5. Jealousies among Communist cadres in China were frequent and well known. The competition among them was not for money, but for power.

6. The most severe blow the Chinese Communist's prestige suffered since they came into power in China was a result of the Three Anti's and Five Anti's campaigns. Before these campaigns, the people had faith in the Communists because the Communists had been able to accomplish most of what they had promised to do. These campaigns placed many innocent people in difficulties, and the people began to realize that the promises the Communists had made to guarantee personal rights were not to be kept. The Communists claimed that the country had gained by the anti-campaigns, and the people dared not disagree with them. When the cadres were asked in a meeting about an unfairness suffered by an individual, their answer always was that that particular incident was just a "trifling deviation."
7. The most serious effect the Communist regime had on native habits and customs was its effect on human nature, which was manifest in a growth in suspicions among people and in lack of trust in each other. The most serious mutual effect was the deterioration of domestic relations, since the Communists had told the people that they were not supposed to have feelings of affection. Another was constant fear, a sort of persistent mental torture that resulted from not knowing what to expect of the future.
8. The greatest difficulties the Communists faced were a result of their desire for the industrialization of China. They did not have the financial capacity to proceed with industrialization at full speed. In order to get the materials to do so, they commandeered farm products and shipped them abroad in exchange for industrial equipment. If the Communists had not been so

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anxious for industrialization, they would not have been so harsh with the farmers. This practice of the Communists resulted in a serious food shortage, particularly in rural areas. In the spring, farm households normally run out of grain and must depend on potato greens and beans to supplement their diets. The Chinese Communists had a slogan, "No one is to starve"; but many people died of malnutrition. The Communists paid heavily for imports. Proof of this was that in China a bicycle cost about HK \$800; in Hong Kong a bicycle cost only HK \$200. The high price was not due to inflation, nor were the importers making large profits (they would not be allowed to), and import duties could not have been high enough to account for this price; therefore the Communists must have paid a high price for imports. The Chinese Communist government imported a large number of bicycles from [redacted] Czechoslovakia to be used by government employees below the level of bureau heads who could not be allotted an automobile.

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9. Passive sabotage was the only action possible for any one against the Communist regime without punishment - not to work very hard and to muddle through wherever possible. A person doing this might be subjected to criticism, but nothing worse would happen to him. It was impossible to pass out rumors because a person could never be quite sure that the people he spoke to would not betray him. It was difficult even for friends to have a common language because different people were under different degrees of threat. Any activity against the regime, therefore, had to be individual; no one could be trusted.
10. No one dared to coin an anti-Communist phrase. The people frequently used Communist expressions sarcastically. Two of the expressions often used in this manner were "Big Brother" (lao ta ko, 5071/1129/0766), referring to the Russians, and "Progressive" (chin pu, 6651/2975). Such expressions had dual meanings among non-Communists.
11. There was a greater degree of opposition to the regime as one progressed further south because this area had been more recently "liberated." The earlier the liberation, the more submissive the people were. The Cantonese were the most unruly.
12. The Chinese Communists were aware of a gap between themselves and the common people, and they were trying to break through to the people. In government offices the Communist cadres paid calls on the non-Communist employees, but they were not very welcome because the non-Communists were afraid to talk in their presence. The non-Communist government employees never called on the Communist cadres. The non-government workers tried to stay as far away from the Communists as possible. As the Chinese saying goes, "Stay away as far as possible from gods and devils." No one was brave enough to do anything else.
13. Three events that proved embarrassing to the Chinese Communist were:
 - a. When the Chinese Communists first came to Shantung in 1949 they attempted to rush many construction projects; but there were not enough workers or engineers to do the work. Each unit had its own budget and its own contractors to finish the job in the shortest possible time. When the projects were completed, the workers received rewards for finishing in the allotted time. But after the next rainy season many of the buildings and the projects fell to pieces.
 - b. During one year in the countryside in Shantung, locusts were eating the crops. The people from the towns were mobilized to catch the locusts. However, the townspeople, not knowing anything about locusts, destroyed the wheat not touched by the locusts as well as the wheat already destroyed by the locusts and, in effect, destroyed the whole crop. The

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farmers had to thank the townspeople for their help although their crops were gone. The Chinese Communist cadres often helped the farmers who had become afraid of their presence.

- c. One year in Ts'angshang (N 36-51, E 115-54) the Chinese Communists planned to introduce new cotton seeds. When the seeds reached the area, the farmers had already planted old seeds, and the plants had begun to grow. The local magistrate, having orders from his superiors that the new seeds were to be planted, ordered the farmers to cut down their crops. He was punished for this later, but the farmers had lost their crops.
14. The Chinese Communist officials themselves felt the difficulties of rigid control. They found it difficult to act even within their scope of authority. When they were required to do something, they had to use their own judgment to some extent; and the results were not always acceptable. So they, too, felt their loss of freedom. They were not supposed to express their feelings and were expected "not to bow to difficulties," but they did occasionally show their feelings to their non-Communist colleagues. In meetings the Communists were not supposed to raise complaints, but often in their "positive suggestions for improvements," their discontent was reflected.
15. The Chinese Communists were aware of the reluctance of the people to cooperate with them. The political commissars would often mention the "waver- ing of the people," who are supposed to have "one will and one heart." There was an instance of sabotage in the Tsinan Station of the Tsinan-Tsingtao Railway. The drinking water for railway employees was poisoned. A report of the arrest of the people responsible was published after the cam- paign against reactionaries, but no details were contained in it. [redacted] there were frequent instances of people placing stones on the rails to obstruct the passage of trains.

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